

From: Peter McWalters, Commissioner  
To: All School Districts, Nonpublic Schools, Preschools  
Date: November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Re: School Cancellations

Dear Colleagues,

The Rhode Island Broadcasting Company (RIBA) has recently taken over all responsibility for the school-cancellation system.

Therefore, the school-cancellation password and procedures you received earlier this season from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) are no longer in effect.

RIBA has sent to all schools and districts notices, pass codes, and procedures for a one-step Web-based system through which you can notify all broadcast outlets should you need to cancel school or delay school opening.

Some of you have received this information from RIBA and some have not. Please check your mail carefully. I believe that these notices from RIBA were sent out last week. If you have already received a user ID and password from RIBA and you have tested it, you need not take any further action at this time.

RIBA apparently used a database from one of its member stations to set up a mailing list, so some schools may have been overlooked.

At this time, RIDE is working with RIBA to update the RIBA database for all future mailings and communications.

In the meantime, **be advised, the system of calling into a radio or television station with a RIDE password is no longer in effect.**

I urge you to contact Rhode Island Broadcasting Company immediately if you have not received any materials from them.

I also encourage you to test your RIBA pass code when you receive materials from RIBA.

If you have not received any RIBA materials, call Lori Needham at 228-1722 (voicemails will be checked frequently), or email her at [lneedham@ribroadcasters.com](mailto:lneedham@ribroadcasters.com)

I regret this untimely change in procedures, and I would like to thank those of you who called to inform us of this new process that RIBA has established. Once all schools have been properly notified of the cancellation procedures, I am confident that the new system will be more effective for all of us. I appreciate your understanding as RIBA converts to this more reliable and efficient system.